

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**On page 71, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 and ending on page 72, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:**

This construct virtually eliminates hairpin formations in either oligonucleotide and dramatically reduces the potential for core/core and shell/shell hybridization. It also allows for more precise control of core/shell hybridization using the differential of the T<sub>m</sub> of the core/shell hybrid vs. the core/core or shell/shell hybrids. This will further reduce the incidence of unwanted crosslinking (gel formation). Furthermore, addition of extra nucleotides on the 3' end of and between the restriction sites should improve the ability of SfiI to recognize and cut the dsDNA recognition site during *in vivo* linker accessibility/degradation testing. Thus, the theoretical formation of core/shell dimer was assumed as follows.

Core-5'-GGGGGGGGTTTTTTTTggccATATAggccTTTTggccTATATggccTTTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:4)

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3'- AAAAccggTATATccggAAAAccggATATAccggAAAAAAGGGGGGG-5'-Shell (SEQ ID NO:5)